

## FOREWORD

The Delta Levee System Integrity Program, like all components of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Program), is being developed and evaluated at a programmatic level. The Program is currently in what is referred to as Phase II, in which the CALFED agencies are developing a Preferred Program Alternative that will be subject to a comprehensive programmatic environmental review. This report describes both the long-term programmatic actions that are assessed in the June 1999 Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR), as well as certain more specific actions that may be carried out during implementation of the Program. The programmatic actions in a long-term program of this scope necessarily are described generally and without detailed site-specific information. More detailed information will be analyzed as the Program is refined in its next phase.

Implementation of Phase III is expected to begin in 2000, after the Programmatic EIS/EIR is finalized and adopted. Because of the size and complexity of the alternatives, the Program likely will be implemented over a period of 30 or more years. Program actions will be refined as implementation proceeds, initially focusing on the first 7 years (Stage 1). Subsequent site-specific proposals that involve potentially significant environmental impacts will require site-specific environmental review that tiers off the Programmatic EIS/EIR. Some actions, such as levee rehabilitation, also will be subject to permit approval from regulatory agencies.

